

Filed for intro on 04/02/2001

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 153  
By Henry

A RESOLUTION Relative to federal standards establishing  
performance and marking requirements for tire  
for use on commercial motor vehicles.

WHEREAS, Tennessee's road system consists of 85,037 miles; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee ranks sixth in the nation and first in the Southeast in ton miles  
carried by highways; and

WHEREAS, There are 14,607 registered motor carriers in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Safety weighs in excess of nine million trucks annually  
at six sites; and

WHEREAS, There was a total overall five-year increase of 33.5% between 1993-1994 to  
1999 in vehicle miles traveled by medium and large trucks in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, In 1999, medium and large trucks in Tennessee traveled six trillion, five  
hundred twenty-two billion (6,522,000,000,000) miles on Tennessee roadways; and

SJR0153

00506575

WHEREAS, United States Code, Title 49, Chapter 5, Part 571, establishes the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards for new pneumatic tires for vehicles other than passenger vehicles; and

WHEREAS, Tire debris resulting from tire treads splitting away from their carcasses is a hazard on Tennessee's highways and interstate system presenting a safety hazard to Tennesseans and other motorists; and

WHEREAS, The U. S. Secretary of Transportation has established a goal of reducing truck-related fatal crashes by 50% over the next ten years; and

WHEREAS, The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration develops safety standards for all equipment on commercial vehicles; and

WHEREAS, The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's testing and standards have not changed since the 1960s; and

WHEREAS, Trucks and truck-tractors operate over extended periods of time under loaded conditions; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the General Assembly hereby urges the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to review and strengthen the standards that have been established relative to the construction, testing, maintenance and use of tires utilized by commercial motor vehicles, with a view toward improving the quality and performance of such tires and reducing the number of tire treads that split away from their carcasses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to each member of Tennessee's Congressional delegation, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Motor Carrier Safety Administration.